



General Assembly

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JUN 7 1982

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Distr.
GENERALA/37/209/Add.1
20 May 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-seventh session
Item 74 (c) of the preliminary list*

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and
rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian regionReport of the Secretary-GeneralAddendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 7 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/55 of 22 July 1981 concerning implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it, at its second regular session of 1982, on the implementation of the provisions of that resolution.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSIONS OF 1980 AND 1981

2. At its second regular session of 1980, held at Geneva from 3 to 25 July 1980, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1980/51, in which it, inter alia, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/35/176); expressed its profound gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that had contributed to the implementation of the recovery, rehabilitation and development programmes in the Sahel; and strongly urged that all Governments make special efforts to increase the resources of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), so as to enable it to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the Governments of the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). Furthermore, the Council:

(a) Urged "all United Nations organs, agencies and programmes, especially the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, to increase their assistance through joint undertakings with the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, in response to requests from the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries, for the implementation of their recovery, rehabilitation and development programmes";

(b) Invited "the Secretary-General, together with the executive heads of the United Nations organs, agencies and programmes concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, as well as the International Labour Organisation, to engage in consultations to determine how they might best help to achieve the goal set forth in paragraph [2 (a)] above and thereby enhance the ability of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to respond more adequately to the priority requirements of the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel".

3. The above requests were subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of its resolution 35/86 of 5 December 1980 and considered by the

Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in December 1980. Consultations were then initiated by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under whose authority and supervision UNSO operates, with all United Nations organs, agencies and programmes concerned, on the best means and methods of implementing Council resolution 1980/51.

4. The results of the consultations were summarized in the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/208 and Add.1), submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981. In the report, the Secretary-General stated, inter alia, that the over-all tone of the responses was very positive, showing that the organizations consulted were "actively seeking the most appropriate methods of achieving increased efficiency in using funds and resources available to implement high-priority programmes in the region". The Secretary-General further pointed out that the role of UNSO in the system was also treated constructively, reflecting a general desire to proceed in a co-ordinated fashion in developing and implementing Sudano-Sahelian projects and programmes. (A/36/208/Add.1, para.3)

5. The Economic and Social Council considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/208 and Add.1) at its second regular session of 1981, held at Geneva from 1 to 24 July 1981, and adopted resolution 1981/55 in which it, inter alia, took note with satisfaction of the report; expressed its profound gratitude to the Governments, agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, private organizations and individuals that had contributed to the implementation of the recovery, rehabilitation and development programme in the Sahel; took note of the progress made in the implementation of the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 1980/51 aimed at increasing the assistance of the competent organizations of the United Nations system and enhancing the ability of UNSO to respond more adequately to the priority requirements of the States members of CILSS; invited the Secretary-General to pursue further the consultations envisaged in paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1980/51, with a view to working out specific arrangements for joint undertakings between UNSO and the appropriate organs, agencies and programmes of the United Nations; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council at its second regular session of 1982.

6. Council resolution 1981/55 was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, in resolution 36/203 of 17 December 1981.

7. The above decisions served as a basis for a further stage of inter-agency consultations, involving United Nations organs, agencies and programmes concerned, on the most efficient means and methods of increasing the capability of the United Nations to respond to the needs of the Sudano-Sahelian countries. The results of these consultations are described in section III below.

III. SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING INTER-AGENCY
CONSULTATIONS IN RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1980/51 AND 1981/55

8. At the present, inter-agency consultations in response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55 are still in progress. A brief summary of the results achieved as at 30 April 1982 is given below.

A. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of
the United Nations Secretariat

9. Co-operation between the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat and UNSO is well established and both closely relate and co-ordinate their activities in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The modalities of the Department's co-operation range from technical backstopping for UNSO-supported projects, through joint missions between UNSO and the Department, to instances of execution by the Department of UNSO-financed projects and joint financing of projects.

10. Consultations with the Department resulted in arrangements for periodic joint reviews of the Department's on-going and prospective project activities in the Sudano-Sahelian region, in conjunction with the programming activities of UNSO. It was also agreed that the Department might use some of the resources of the United Nations Regular Programme, limited as they are, for programming missions and short-term advisory services, in collaboration with UNSO, covering project formulation, planning and execution, and feasibility studies.

B. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

11. The links between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and UNSO in respect of the medium-term and long-term drought recovery and rehabilitation as well as desertification control activities in the Sahel, are particularly close, not only because of the nature of the general mandate of UNCTAD but also because of the special responsibilities of UNCTAD regarding the least developed and land-locked countries. The UNSO-supported feeder-road construction programme, which aims at providing year-round access to isolated, drought-prone areas, thus figured prominently in the UNCTAD/UNSO consultations since it has a particularly direct bearing on the condition of land-locked countries.

12. Moreover, considering that the UNSO-sponsored feeder-road system is rapidly acquiring the character of a permanent infrastructure in the States members of CILSS and in the region as a whole, with potentially far-reaching economic and social consequences, UNCTAD expressed its readiness to undertake a study, as a joint venture with UNSO, and in concert with the countries concerned, which would examine:

(a) The economic implications and the prospective commercial consequences (in terms of inter-state, interregional and foreign trade) of the existing system of

feeder roads, with particular attention being paid to the question of improving the performance of the commercial sector;

(b) The impact of the system of feeder roads on the potential investment options in the region, including investment requirements related to the storage and handling capacity of principal sea ports linked to the system; and

(c) An economic appraisal of the required transport infrastructure and proposals for a more appropriate financing machinery.

13. The study would pay particular attention, bearing in mind the above three sets of questions, to the possible construction of a road link between Nema, in south-western Mauritania, and Nara, in central Mali, since such a link would directly connect agriculturally important regions of those two countries. The scope and specific modalities of the study are at present under discussion.

C. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

14. Fields of activity in which the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNSO will intensify their co-operation and the co-ordination of their respective activities have been identified primarily as the development of appropriate technologies for the use of solar energy and other non-conventional energy sources, the production of adapted agricultural implements and tools, the production of fertilizers and pesticides, the establishment of repair and maintenance facilities, and the production of water-lifting and irrigation equipment.

15. Whenever feasible, UNIDO and UNSO will explore possibilities for, and enter into, joint actions to develop and implement the priority projects submitted to UNSO by the States members of CILSS and the CILSS secretariat.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

16. As determined by the General Assembly, UNSO acts on behalf of the United Nations Environments Programme (UNEP) and under the joint UNDP/UNEP venture in assisting the designated countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; this mandate of UNSO includes all States members of CILSS. The quality and extent of the relationship between UNEP and UNSO is described in detail in the report of the Governing Council of UNEP, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982.

E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

17. Although its operations in the Sudano-Sahelian region are generally of limited scale in comparison with the requirements, the United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements (Habitat) is active in developing and implementing pre-investment projects in all countries of the region. Its programmes and projects range from supporting national, regional and urban development planning to implementing low-income housing and rural school construction programmes, and developing the production of building materials using indigenous resources.

18. Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55 served as an impetus for establishing closer contacts between the Centre and UNSO, and it is expected that a higher degree of co-operation and co-ordination and possibly even joint action, will be achieved as a result. Of particular relevance and promise in this regard are the areas of physical planning, local production of building materials, demonstration of low-cost housing techniques and construction methods, and appropriate accommodation for national brigades working on UNSO-supported projects. Possibilities for joint action involving the Centre and UNSO will be examined in these areas, initially in the form of pre-feasibility and feasibility studies.

F. United Nations Children's Fund

19. Within its own mandates, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) translates the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council primarily into actions aimed at improving the condition of children and women in Africa, including the Sahel region. In January 1981, UNICEF convened a special session of the Executive Board to consider the urgent and critical needs of vulnerable groups in Africa, including those of the Sahel region, and the Executive Board decided to allocate special funds to meet the urgent needs of African countries. This allocation of resources was additional to on-going regular programmes and to the special funding which UNICEF seeks from donors for "noted" projects. Special funds are provided or actively sought for every country member of CILSS; major negotiations are under way, in particular, to provide additional funds for water-related and sanitation projects.

20. As a result of the consultations requested by the Council, UNICEF and UNSO have agreed to intensify their contacts and their mutual co-ordination in order, inter alia, to make it possible, when priority projects of the Governments of States members of CILSS are being elaborated, for particular attention to be given to the special problems of vulnerable groups, especially those affecting children and women. Considering the extent of decentralization of the operations of UNICEF, a special role in this regard has been assigned to the UNSO regional office at Ouagadougou where UNICEF also has a sub-office.

G. United Nations Development Programme

21. It will be recalled that, effective 1 October 1976, the Secretary-General transferred UNSO from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to UNDP, and delegated to the Administrator of UNDP full responsibility for the administration, control and operation of the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities, including the administration and direction of UNSO. Following the decision of the

Secretary-General, UNSO was made part of the immediate office of the Administrator and operates under his direct authority and supervision. Details of the relationship, including the modus operandi of UNSO are described in the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (see A/36/208 and A/37/209).

22. Throughout its programming and project activities, UNSO maintains effective working relationships with all appropriate bureaux and services of UNDP, in particular, as far as the States members of CILSS are concerned, with the Regional Bureau for Africa. The Bureau and UNSO co-operate closely and mutually relate their respective responsibilities at all stages of programme and project formulation and implementation, thus ensuring the complementarity of their activities at both national and regional levels. Joint financing of missions and projects, national and regional, occurs regularly as a response to priority requests of the Governments of the States members of CILSS.

H. World Food Programme

23. Collaboration between the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNSO has been very close over the years. It has been facilitated by the fact that WFP accords high priority to requests from the Sahelian countries, that both organizations are represented in the field by UNDP resident representatives, and that regular working contacts are maintained at headquarters level, as well as in the field, through the UNSO regional office at Ouagadougou.

24. During the consultations, it was determined that future WFP/UNSO co-operation and co-ordination would centre on (a) projects for the development of the physical infrastructure of countries and (b) directly productive projects, that is, projects which bring direct economic returns, even if on a long-term basis; for example, in the field of forestry.

25. The first category includes projects relating to the building and creation of public amenities such as transportation facilities, community development work of various kinds, health facilities and housing. These projects are often labour intensive and, as a result, benefit from being given a high priority by WFP. Thus WFP food inputs can and will be introduced into the projects, as required, either instead of part wages for manual labour (with full regard to the relevant labour regulations of the respective Governments) or as an incentive to volunteer labour. Most projects based on volunteer labour will be of the "self-help" type, involving primarily rural volunteers who, with technical assistance from the Government and with food aid from WFP as an incentive, will undertake small rural public works, as part of UNSO-assisted projects, thereby enhancing their scope.

26. Within the category of directly productive projects, WFP/UNSO co-operation will concentrate on land development and improvement, soil conservation and forestry, as well as on the production and diversification of crops, including tree crops.

I. United Nations University

27. UNSO has been an active partner of the United Nations University (UNU) since 1978, particularly in terms of its inputs into the UNU subprogramme on the assessment and application of knowledge to problems of arid lands. Both institutions have maintained an active dialogue on matters of conceptualizing the subprogramme, as well as on other UNU research and training activities of relevance to the problems of the Sudano-Sahelian region.

28. In January 1981, UNU and UNSO jointly sponsored, together with, and at the seat of, the University of Ouagadougou, a major workshop on arid lands, a principal objective of which was to discuss with the representatives of most of the countries members of CILSS, the practical applicability of UNU arid and semi-arid zone research to the pressing needs of the Sahel.

29. Consultations held in response to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55 reconfirmed the active determination of UNU and UNSO to further pursue their mutual collaboration along the above lines, and also resulted in identifying the first specific UNSO-supported projects in which the research and training inputs of UNU would be of special importance for enhancing their value and impact.

J. International Labour Organisation

30. Two principal types of activities were identified during the consultations, in the performance of which the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNSO should closely relate and co-ordinate their on-going programmes, as well as jointly initiate new ones: (a) projects involving labour-intensive inputs and (b) projects with components of vocational training. It has been further determined that since a number of UNSO-supported activities contain strong components of both, the area for co-ordinated and joint action is rather extensive. Of particular importance, in this connexion, are projects in the field of feeder-road construction and maintenance, soil conservation, afforestation, water-management works, sand-dune fixation, and production of agricultural tools and implements. Future joint action will be aimed particularly at pre-feasibility and feasibility studies and pilot projects.

31. Furthermore, it has been agreed that the ILO and UNSO will:

(a) Hold regular consultations on drought-related recovery and rehabilitation, as well as desertification control activities in the Sudano-Sahelian region; these consultations will be held both at headquarters level and, primarily, in the field, in particular between the ILO office at Dakar and the UNSO regional office at Ouagadougou;

(b) Regularly exchange information, reports, project proposals, training material and the like related to their activities in the region;

(c) Undertake joint surveys and missions for the development of projects in response to requests from Governments or from CILSS; and

(d) Exchange expertise available in ILO and UNSO projects.

32. One of the first concrete results of the consultations has been closer and intensified co-operation between the ILO and UNSO in connexion with the UNSO-supported feeder-road construction and maintenance programme. In view of its experience with labour-intensive road-building and maintenance techniques in other parts of Africa, the ILO was invited to participate in the UNSO appraisal mission which took place in January 1982; the mission brought forth important recommendations, which are described in more detail in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/37/209, paras. 28-31).

K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

33. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNSO have been co-operating closely since UNSO was established. During the consultations, both organizations agreed to strengthen their relationships, in accordance with the specific roles assigned to them in the United Nations system and in the spirit of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55.

34. The limited funds which FAO has available under its various action programmes, such as Food Security Assistance, Post-harvest Losses and the Integrated Programme for Seeds Development, have all been used to give priority attention to drought-stricken areas, in particular the Sahelian region. The same applies to the FAO Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP), which is financed entirely from the regular budget of FAO. Under TCP, both emergency assistance and urgent development aid is being provided, the drought-stricken countries of Africa receiving priority attention. Several of the activities originally supported by TCP on a small scale, have led to further large-scale projects and programmes for the benefit of the countries concerned.

35. As regards possible joint undertakings between FAO and UNSO, it has been agreed that, at present, the most appropriate areas for co-operation would be the joint sponsoring of symposia, seminars or workshops on some of the major problems affecting the Sahelian region. Discussions are currently under way about the possibility of organizing a seminar in co-operation with CILSS on arid-zone afforestation, shelter-belt plantations and sand-dune stabilization in the Sahel. The intended target date of the seminar, which would include a strong practical training component, is late in 1982 or early in 1983.

L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

36. Co-operation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNSO has always been very close. UNESCO staff members

and experts have participated in virtually all large-scale programming missions organized by UNSO dealing with the over-all problems of drought and desertification control in the Sahel. Thus, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme which UNESCO implements as part of its normal functions, has made and continues to make valuable inputs into UNSO-assisted projects and programmes.

37. With respect to training activities, UNESCO has been particularly supportive of the efforts of UNSO and the Institute of the Sahel to develop regional training schemes for nationals of States members of CILSS, which deal with some of the major ecological problems, including the control of land degradation. UNSO and UNESCO have also jointly supported the development of research programmes which are being carried out by the staff of the Institute.

38. With regard to the recent consultations undertaken at the request of the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO has agreed to provide additional inputs within the limitations of its means, inter alia, to elaborate a national strategy to combat desertification in the Upper Volta and possibly Mali, and to continue to provide, on an ad hoc basis, the services of technical staff for projects on drought rehabilitation and recovery and on desertification control in the Sahel.

M. World Health Organization

39. The response of the World Health Organization (WHO) to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55 was discussed at both WHO and UNSO headquarters, and through direct contacts between the UNSO regional office at Ouagadougou and the WHO Regional Office for Africa at Brazzaville. The consultations reconfirmed the active involvement of WHO in the Sahel in all matters relating to public health, particular attention being paid to preventive medicine, primary health care, and food and malnutrition problems.

40. In the future, WHO intends to concentrate some of its efforts on questions of preventive medical care for water-borne diseases in regions affected or expected to be affected by the construction of dams, large irrigation schemes and other water-control works. These activities will be centred at the Institute of the Sahel, which UNSO already actively supports. WHO will appoint a liaison officer/specialist in health-related problems connected with water-resource development, based at the Institute. In addition, WHO will seek to reinforce its relationship with the CILSS secretariat, which should also result in the strengthening of its working relationship with the UNSO regional office at Ouagadougou.

41. Furthermore, it has been agreed that:

(a) WHO will participate, in an increased measure, in UNSO-sponsored formulation missions in the Sahel;

(b) WHO and UNSO will be mutually represented at meetings organized under their respective sponsorships, at which Sahelian problems relating to their mandates are to be discussed;

(c) Closer co-operation will be established between UNSO and WHO in the latter's activities dealing with (i) questions of food and nutrition in Africa in the context of the Lagos Plan of Action (see A/S-11/14, annex I); (ii) primary health care components as they relate to UNSO-supported projects; and (iii) implementation in the Sahelian region of the objectives of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade;

(d) WHO and UNSO will hold consultations, as appropriate, on questions and issues involving joint financing and funding of projects of common interest.

N. World Bank

42. During the period between the adoption of Council resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55, general information was exchanged between the World Bank and UNSO on their respective programming and project activities, and substantive areas in which to pursue their prospective co-operation were identified.

43. Following the adoption of Council resolution 1981/55, consultations continued and entered the stage of actual review of the programmes and projects of the Bank and UNSO, the objective being to strengthen, in terms of specific activities, mutual co-operation and co-ordination. When the present report was being finalized, the first joint review of programming and project activities in Mali, the Niger and the Upper Volta, and of some major regional projects in the Sahel, was completed. Activities dealing with feeder-road construction and maintenance, energy assessment, the development of renewable or alternative sources of energy, forestry, range management, and the development of improved wood-burning stoves, were found of particular importance for closer co-operation between the World Bank and UNSO, and for possible joint action.

44. In this connexion, two activities are envisaged. The first, to be carried out early in 1982, involves a joint mission to Mauritania to review activities in the forestry sector and develop, with the Government, a joint strategy for assuring complementarity of on-going and future activities in this sector. With respect to the second activity, the World Bank has agreed to act as executing agency and to finance jointly with UNSO and the Energy Account of UNDP a joint mission which is to go to the Niger in September 1982 to finalize a large-scale project for the preparation of the country's energy master plan.

O. International Monetary Fund

45. As a result of consultations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the following activities of the Fund have been identified as relevant to the requests of the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1980/51 and 1981/55:

(a) The provision of resources for balance-of-payments adjustment programmes; in the case of temporary shortfalls in export earnings, financial assistance is available under the Compensatory Financing Facility to countries that qualify; countries experiencing a serious temporary shortfall in cereal imports may also qualify for assistance;

(b) The provision of technical assistance in areas of central banking, taxation, budgetary control and advice, compilation of statistical data and training in financial analysis, balance-of-payment analysis and the like.

46. Although IMF is not in a position to enter into joint undertakings with UNSO, it will, upon request, provide information on relevant socio-economic problems and developments in the Sahel.

P. International Telecommunication Union

47. The main question examined during the consultations with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was that of the existing telecommunications system and technology in the rural areas of the sub-Saharan region and its bearing on the formulation and implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sahel. It was reconfirmed that the present rural telecommunications system in Africa continues to be a major infrastructural bottle-neck, constituting a serious impediment to the implementation of capital investment and technical co-operation programmes and projects in the region. ITU has clearly stated that the range and complexity of these problems, their seriousness and their impact on the developmental activities in Africa, call urgently for an over-all, consolidated and integrated solution.

48. Against this background, UNSO examined and endorsed the ITU Project for Appropriate Modern Telecommunication Technology for Integrated Rural Development, the principal aim of which is to provide efficient and economical means of domestic telecommunications in and to rural and remote areas in African countries. Together with the Governments concerned and the appropriate regional organizations and in concert with other United Nations agencies and institutions, ITU will actively pursue the development and implementation of the Project. In doing so, it will maintain regular contacts with UNSO and the above-mentioned institutions, bearing in mind the need to link the new communication system to on-going or planned development activities in the region, including those supported by UNSO.

Q. World Meteorological Organization

49. Consultations with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) underlined the importance of two fields of activity in which WMO, in closer co-operation and through joint undertakings with UNSO, could enhance its specific inputs into the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sahel, namely, the fields of meteorology and operational hydrology.

50. WMO already maintains close co-operation with UNSO in dealing with problems of drought and desertification through the application of agricultural meteorology in the arid and semi-arid zones of Africa, as evidenced by the AGRHYMET programme of the CILSS countries. At present, WMO and UNSO are discussing the modalities of their continuing involvements in the Integrated Plan for the AGHYMET Programme for 1982-1986 (i.e., the second AGHYMET phase), the purpose of which is (a) to strengthen the communication system for the pragmatic utilization by farming

populations of the data gathered through the meteorological and hydrological observation network, in order to make the network fully operational; and (b) to continue the recruitment and training of national personnel for managing and implementing the programme.

51. On the question of operational hydrology, the considerable experience of WMO, particularly in surface hydrology, will be used in an increased measure by UNSO in the development of project proposals submitted by the countries members of CILSS.

52. As a direct result of the above-mentioned consultations, arrangements are being made for WMO to undertake a study of hydrometeorological factors related to design standards for the construction and maintenance of the UNSO-supported feeder-road system in the Sahel. The study will consolidate and analyse all relevant data on the question, particularly with respect to any evidence of recent changes in rainfall intensity characteristics, with the objective of formulating broad recommendations which could be used by engineering teams in refining construction norms for feeder-road building and maintenance in the Sahel. The conclusions of the report will also be used in the elaboration of the medium-term and long-term maintenance plan for the roads constructed between 1976 and 1981.

R. International Fund for Agricultural Development

53. One of the main objectives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is to mobilize resources for agricultural development and food production in developing countries and to finance projects and programmes which give special attention to the rural poor, so that the severe problems of hunger and malnutrition which affect them may be alleviated and ultimately eliminated. It follows that the Sahelian countries are of particular concern to IFAD and that the responsibilities of IFAD in this area are closely related to those of UNSO.

54. Consultations are currently under way (a) to review possibilities of joint financing of some of the UNSO-supported priority projects of the States members of CILSS and (b) to determine which of these projects would benefit from IFAD technical assistance grants or loans, as appropriate. Such projects are primarily in the field of agricultural development and include food production, rangeland management and livestock production. IFAD will also review how far its competence and interest could extend to UNSO-supported projects in the areas of land degradation and erosion control, rehabilitation of arid and semi-arid zones, and the construction of feeder roads to link isolated yet agriculturally productive areas to national transport infrastructures.

S. International Atomic Energy Agency

55. Within the area of its responsibilities, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) can provide expert services, equipment and training to any State Member of the United Nations. However, assistance financed from the regular programme can only be provided to States members of IAEA (the States members of CILSS, which are also members of IAEA, are Mali, the Niger and Senegal).

Assistance to States not members of IAEA can be provided if financed from sources other than the regular programme.

56. The Agency's competence, as it relates to the question of the medium-term and long-term drought-related recover and rehabilitation and desertification control programmes in the Sahel, centres primarily on the use of radio-isotopes in hydrology and agriculture.

57. Negotiations are currently under way on how to relate appropriate IAEA techniques and methodologies to UNSO-supported activities in Mali, the Niger and Senegal, and to extend the expertise of IAEA to projects in other States members of CILSS.

T. International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)

58. Consultations with the International Trade Centre (ITC) focused on the possibilities of its involvement in trade promotion, as it relates or may relate to the implementation of UNSO-supported projects in the Sahel.

59. The marketing and export potentials of a range of specific commodities were reviewed, and an agreement was reached that, at present, the main attention should focus on gum arabic. As a result of the consultations, a joint ITC/UNSO project was developed which involves two components:

(a) The updating of a study on the potential of gum arabic as an international commodity, prepared originally by ITC for a seminar held at Dakar in 1979; the updating includes a market study for gum arabic, in terms of medium-term and long-term supply and demand factors; and

(b) The organization of seminars in one or two countries producing gum arabic to discuss the conclusions of the above-mentioned study.

60. Possibilities were also discussed of using ITC expertise in studying the potential of jojoba production in the region. Jojoba (*simondsia chinensis*) is a drought resistant, desert shrub which produces a high-grade oil used for a variety of industrial purposes. Arrangements were worked out for the participation of ITC, in the capacity of an observer, in the jojoba seminar held at Khartoum in February 1982.

61. In principle, it has been agreed that, to the extent feasible, co-operation between ITC and UNSO will be conceived as joint ventures, including the fielding of joint formulation missions and joint project preparation.
